



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

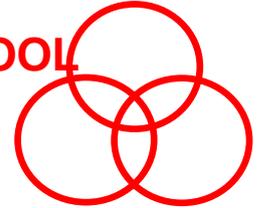
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

Tel: 01235 521558 Fax: 01235 532778

e-mail: office.3856@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



26th February 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back into school on **Monday March 8th**. I am therefore writing to remind you all how we would like this to happen to ensure the safety and happiness of your child.

How will schools keep children safe?

Following the latest government guidelines, children will still remain in separate groups as far as is possible. You may want to read the latest [Government's what parents need to know about returning to school in the spring information here](#). Most of the procedures are the same as we had during the autumn term but for many families it is several months since the children have been in school so please do take the time to reread the information in this letter and please ask if there is anything you are unsure about.

As before, we will be minimising the number of other children and adults each child comes into contact with, therefore, bubbles will continue to be the class sized groups of up to 30 children (though the Early Years group will be a larger bubble as it will include all of the Reception and Nursery class so that all of the Early Years children have full access to the whole of the inside and outside areas in order to fulfil the requirements of the Early Years curriculum.)

Other protective measures include:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning
- Removing soft toys, cushions, etc which cannot easily be cleaned
- Minimising contact and mixing
- **All adults to wear mask at drop off and pick up**
- Staff and adult visitors will wear face coverings where social distancing between adults isn't possible (for example, in corridors and communal areas). NB Children in primary schools **don't** need to wear a face covering.
- All staff will continue to get tested at home twice a week. Primary pupils will not be tested.

The beginning and end of the school day:

Start and finish times will be staggered again, and children will need to be dropped off during their **allocated ten-minute arrival/pick up time only** at the Early Years Gate (Nursery and Reception children), Key Stage 2 gate (Year 5 & 6) or gate on the side of the school field (Year 1-4). We ask children to arrive with one parent or carer (please continue to avoid using public transport if you can) and to be closely supervised so that they do not mix with other children on the way to school or on arrival. If you need to bring another of your children with you in the morning when you drop





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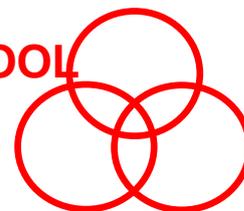
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off your child this is perfectly in order, but could all your children stand with you in the social distancing queue, please. No parent will be allowed on site until the current restrictions are lifted.

NB we would like **all adults to wear a mask at drop off and pick up** until full restrictions are lifted to help keep everyone as safe as possible:

	Drop off	Pick up
Nursery EY Radley Road gate	8:50-9:00am	2:40-2:50pm
Reception EY Radley Road gate	8:40-8:50am	2:50-3:00pm
Year 1 gate on field	8:30-8:40am	2:45-2:55pm
Year 2 gate on field	8:40-8:50am	2:55-3:05pm
Year 3 gate on field	8:45-8:55am	3:00-3:10pm
Year 4 gate on field	8:35-8:45am	2:50-3:00pm
Year 5 KS2 side gate	8:35-8:45am	2:50-3:00pm
Year 6 KS2 side gate	8:30-8:40am	2:45-2:55pm

PLEASE help us by keeping to these ten minute slots only each day to prevent children mixing with children from other classes and to minimise risks to yourselves.

The School Day

Initially our emphasis will be on settling the children back into school routines and learning behaviours again. The children will be very keen to see their friends and most will probably be relieved to get back to the familiar routines of the school day. However, as previously, we are aware that every child and family's experience over the last few months will have been different and it is important that we make time to acknowledge that and to support those children who need it to return to normal. Don't worry if you feel your child may have fallen behind, we will do our best to help get them back on track over the coming months. Thank you all again for all you have done to support your children with their learning over this latest lockdown period, we fully appreciate what a stressful situation this has been for many of you, particularly when trying to balance the demands of your own work commitments. I am sure you are all as relieved as we are to see the children returning to school once more.

School office

Please be aware that whilst we continue to follow the government's Covid-19 guidelines, the school office will continue to be closed for parents/carers (except for emergencies), as we are keeping visitors into the school building to a minimum until the current restrictions are lifted. Please telephone or email if you need to speak to a member of staff.

Important Coronavirus Information

Please do not send your child to school if you or your family have coronavirus symptoms:

- *a new continuous cough*





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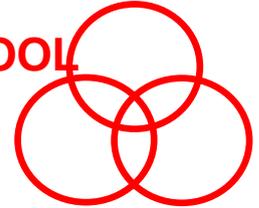
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- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Government guidance states that:

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange. (following the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection, updated 15th February 2021)

Absence information

All children are expected to be in school every day again from 8th March. Therefore, please make sure you inform the office by 9am if your child cannot come into school for any reason (using the usual 24-hour answer phone.) Please also **refrain from booking any holidays or trips during term time.** If your child becomes unwell at home, please telephone the school office as soon as possible to explain the symptoms your child is displaying, as we may then need to follow the government guidance to ensure the safety of all the children and staff.

You may want to reread our updated Covid-19 risk assessment again which will be posted on the school website by the end of next week: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/home-learning/covid-19/> Do contact me via the school office if you have any questions.

You may be reassured to know that so far we have still not had to close a bubble due to a positive case of Covid-19. Our risk assessments and procedures have worked well so far so please do help us by following all of our and the government's guidelines until this dreadful pandemic is finally over.

Uniform

Please make sure your child is wearing full school uniform (with extra layers underneath if needed on colder days as we will still be keeping all rooms well ventilated.) **The children may come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days** (the class PE day won't have changed since the autumn term but do check with the class teacher if needed). The children may bring school bags and book bags into school again, as well as their named water bottle and lunch box (if needed). Please note the kitchen will be open so **children can have a hot meal each day as usual** and I believe the menu will be the same as the one we were using in December (the office staff will contact you if we are sent a different menu next week). Also, to minimise the risk of infection by sharing pens and pencils etc., **all Key Stage 2 children will need their named pencil case with basic classroom resources in** please. We will provide these resources for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. If this is a problem, please let the class teachers know and we will help with this.

Lent

This Lent we are supporting CAFOD by raising money to support some of the poorest communities





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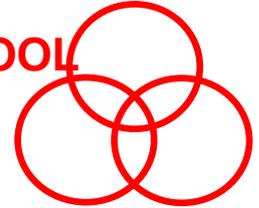
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around the world. The CAFOD 'Walk for Water' appeal aims to raise money to provide clean, safe water for communities in some of the driest parts of Ethiopia, where people have to walk for hours to find water for drinking, cooking and washing. We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money for CAFOD this Lent, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world, inspiring our pupils to become active global citizens and living out our school mission. We have created a Just Giving page for our school fundraising which can be found here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StEdmundsCatholicPrimarySchoolAbingdon> A small donation can make a big difference!

I know the class teachers will have shared many LENT resources with you already but I would like to draw your attention to the Lent and Easter page on the parish website which has new resources and activities for the children each week: <https://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/lent-and-easter> Similarly there are Lenten resources on the CASO website which are regularly updated: <http://www.casoportsmouth.org.uk/lent/>.

First Holy Communion

At present it is not possible to prepare our children for their First Holy Communion and this may not be possible until 2022. However, we would like to have an idea of how many children will wish to be prepared once we can get started again. To give us an indication, could you please tell us the name and age of your child/children and give us a contact phone and email address. We can then compile a list and be able to contact you with news about when we can re-start. Please send this information to Errol Midwinter Phone 01235 522679 or email errolm@btinternet.com

Staffing update

I am delighted that Mrs Dahle and Ms Perez have settled in so well, having joined us in January as our new Year 6 and Year 5 teachers. Having got to know the children remotely, they are both now looking forward to teaching their new classes in the classrooms from March 8th.

I hope the rest of this academic year is going to be a happy and healthy one for us all! I look forward to seeing many of you at the school gate on March 8th. As ever, thank you all for all of your support and kind messages to me and the staff. We are all now looking forward to resuming normal school life again with your wonderful children.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Delany-White
Headteacher

